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縫戸 葵は弟への想いを抑えきれず、十代の頃逃げ出すように相良を頼り押し掛けた。相良は葵の母親の店から独立した実業家だ。以来、葵は13年も居候している。

居場所もなく、働きもせず、自分をろくでなしだと追い込む葵。そんな葵を抱き、ひとつ屋根の下で見守り続ける相良の本心は・・・？　ブラコン性悪男と待つ男――激しくて切ない「ロマンスを艶やかに綴る。話題作「よろこびは腕の上」兄の恋、描き下ろしを加え待望のコミックス化。

よろこびは腕の中

Pleasure is in my arms.
Presented by Setsuko Katou
加東セツコ

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
H2O scanlations

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Wanwan_Euni for the translations

Pleasure is in my Arms
よろこびは腕の中

Kalanchoe
カランコエ

In this Hand
この手の中に

よろこびは腕の中1st

STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
MY BROTHER HAS GOT A LOVER.
OH, HEY IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU AROUND THIS TIME
IS SAGARA-SAN IN?
THE OWNER JUST CAME IN
PLOMP
...WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK PISSED.
KACHAKI

WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF WORK?
I CAN'T TONIGHT. I HAVE A PRIOR APPOINTM-NENT
FOUGHT WITH SOME-ONE AGAIN?
DIDN'T WE AGREE NOT TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?
SITS BACK
.....

I KNOW. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, DID I?
AOI.
PULL
...WAIT FOR ME AT HOME
I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR STAFF.
PULLS AWAY
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND.

SHUTS!
KAUHK
(CRK
--YOU'RE HERE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO WAIT

RUSTLE...
YOU WERE WAITING HERE THE ENTIRE TIME?
DIDN'T YOU HAVE ANY-WHERE ELSE TO GO?
YOUR APPOINTMENT, WAS IT WITH A GIRL?
THAT'S WHY I SAID--
I SAID I KNOW!
I WAS JUST ASKING, STOP YAPPING.

AOI?
...IS THIS ABOUT YOUR BROTHER AGAIN?
CREAK
IT'S TIME TO LET GO OF YOUR BROTHER...
...AOI

CARESS
GRIP
AH
AOI.
.....
.....

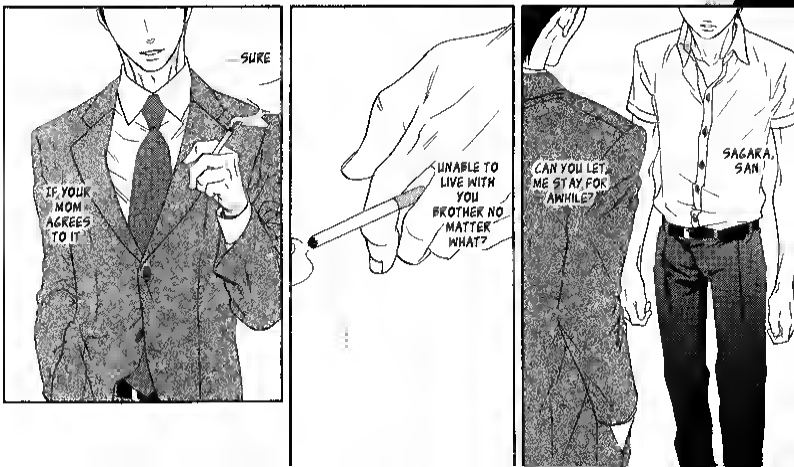
Ha
Kiss
Hah

Hah
Hah
FLINCH
Hah
Rub
Hah
Rub
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Hah
Ha
RUB

THRUST
THRUST
THRUST
THRUST
HAA...
SQUEEK
AH
HAH
HAH
CREAK
FU
NH
HA
CREAK
CREAK
HN
CREAK
NGH
HAA
HAA
HAA

--SUMMER OF THE 2ND YEAR OF SENIOR HIGH I WENT AND STAYED WITH MY MOM'S OLD FRIEND, SAGARA-SAN

NOW, IT'S THE 13TH YEAR



AT FIRST, THE PLAN WAS FOR JUST 2-3 DAYS
THEN, IT BECAME 3 WEEKS, ONE MONTH
5 YEARS, 6 YEARS. DAY BY DAY, YEAR BY YEAR. IT CONTINUED ON LIKE THAT.
--AOI
DID YOU TELL KYOKA-SAN YOU GOT A GIRL PREGNANT AND ASKED FOR MONEY AGAIN?
IT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE TO EXTORT MONEY
DON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY
THE PROBLEM IS THAT "EXCUSE"
IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO SEE KOUKI, RIGHT?

EVEN IF YOU GO HOME, HE'LL JUST AVOID YOU SO IT'S NOT AS THOUGH YOU'LL GET TO MEET HIM, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU DELIBERATELY DO THESE ANNOYING THINGS, BUT THEN SO WHAT?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN
IF THAT'S THAT CASE, THEN I DON'T NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOU
YOU'RE FREE TO MOVE OUT ANYTIME
sorry

IT'S NO USE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU FORCE IT
...HOW ABOUT MAINTAINING A BIT OF DISTANCE, OKAY?
...AOI.

YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON HIMSELF
HE ISN'T THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU, AOI..
.....

I NEED TO DROP BY SOME PLACE.
IT'S ONLY 5, YOU CAN GO SLEEP SOME MORE.
...GOING OUT SO EARLY?
.....
"DON'T INTERFERE IN EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS?" ISN'T THAT OUR RULE?
I'VE WANTED TO SAY THIS A LOT OF TIMES ALREADY.
HEY, AOI.

I'M NOT
AREN'T YOU THE ONE INTERFERING..
YES, YOU ARE! ALL THAT TALK ABOUT LETTING GO OF MY BROTHER!
THAT'S NOT INTERFERING. THAT'S ADVICE
HA?
...WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Sigh
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO AGITATED?
SLAP
AREN'T YOU IN A HURRY?
ENOUGH JUST GO.

IN THE END, IT'S STILL ABOUT BEING DUMPED BY YOUR BROTHER?
--OH.
GRAB

...!
ISN'T IT BETTER TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL?
RIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN YAP-PING NON-STOP ALL THIS TIME!
ADVICE, MY ASS. WHAT SHITTY TALK ARE YOU HOLLERING ABOUT?
IT PISSES ME OFF!
I'LL COME HOME LATE. GO TO SLEEP FIRST. NO NEED TO WAIT FOR ME.
JUST GET OUT!
WHO'S GONNA WAIT FOR YOU!!

KICK
SHIT!
SHUT
!
DON'T COME BACK ANYMORE!
YOU...
SHIT...
HAH
HOW IRRITAT-ING.
WHO'S GONNA WAIT FOR THAT BASTARD?
HA
HA

THIS KIND OF HOUSE,
WHO WOULD
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY-WHERE ELSE TO GO?

.. A PLACE TO GO..
..HOW COULD THERE BE ONE ..
CHAPTER 1 END
To be continued

よろこびは腕の中2nd

BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
PURU,

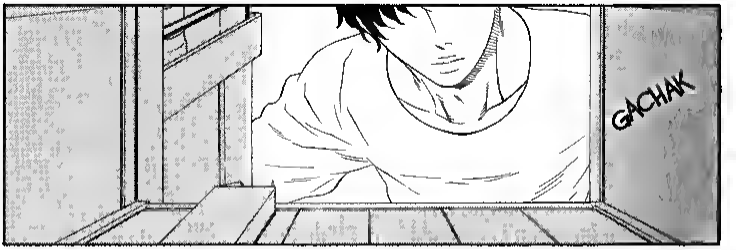
PRRU
PRRU
PRRU
PRRU
PRRU
PU...
HELLO.
PICK UP THE PHONE IF YOU'RE THERE, WOULD YOU?
If that s it then I m hang ing up
Sigh
.. I JUST CALLED TO CHECK UP ON YOU.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WENT BACK HOME.

...MN
Really ?
Have you been eating well?
I still worry about you you know
No other meaning
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
What about?
YOU'RE BUSY, RIGHT?
...ANYWAY, YOU'RE PROBABLY BETTER OFF THAN I AM.
THANKS FOR THE CONCERN
ARE YOU STILL EATING BENTO FROM THE CONVENI-ENCE STORE?

WHY? ARE YOU LONELY?
Not really
Just that there's nothing good to eat without you
OH? I COULDN'T TELL YOU HAVE THE SAME DEADPAN FACE, WHETHER THE FOOD IS GOOD OR NOT
...WHAT TIME
DO YOU GET OFF FROM WORK?
THAT
IT JUST DOESN'T SHOW ON MY FACE
STOP TALKING LIKE A GIRL. IT'S ANNOYING
Alright. Don't get angry
...I'LL MAKE YOU YOUR FAVORITE FOOD
THE SOONEST I'D BE ABLE TO GET HOME IS TOMORROW.

...
WHAT'S THE MATTER
ALL OF A SUDDEN... YOU CALLED TO SWEETEN ME UP AND NOT JUST TO ASK HOW I'M DOING?
.. MAYBE I AM.
BECAUSE I MADE YOU ANGRY A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.
-SA-
Boss sorry to interrupt your call
It's almost time.
Alright. I'm coming
AOI? SORRY, GOTTA GO.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN.
I heard
Then.
I'm hanging up.

KKOK..


GACHAK

SKUIS
NEVERMIND. I'LL JUST BEAR WITH IT UNTIL TOMORROW
NOTHING LEFT..
...SHIT

AND ONE SHRIMP BUN, PLEASE.
PI
OK
--SHALL I REHEAT THIS?
NO NEED
THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
YEAH, THERE'S ONLY SIX OF US, INCLUDING THE PROFESSOR
HEY, HURRY IT UP. IT'S ALMOST OUR TURN
Noisy
AH, WAIT I'M GONNA BUY ICE CREAM.
ME TOO--
ME TOO!
NOISY KIDS
I WANT PUDDING--
WHAT ABOUT THE PROFESSOR?
HOW ABOUT SOME DANGO?

SAME AS...THAT GUY...
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS?
IT'S FINE JUST GET WHATEVER'S THERE
WE CAN JUST COME BACK LATER TO BUY MORE

COULD IT BE THAT
HE'S STILL STAYING WITH THAT GUY..?
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW HIM
..IT'S TO BE EX-PECTED
I CAN'T REMEMBER THAT GUY'S SMILE...
.....

I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
JUST ONE LOOK. --JUST FROM AFAR.
I WON'T MEET HIM.
DEFINITELY WON'T SPEAK TO HIM.
CAN YOU PLEASE BRING OUT THESE BOXES TOO?
OK.
I'M JUST
JUST...

HA!
.....

DEEP DOWN, I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
AH.
I DIDN'T COME TO SEE YOU.
I CAME TO LOOK FOR MOM.
SO WHY
...NO NEED TO WORRY.
DID I STILL COME HERE?
SHE DIDN'T COME IN TODAY.
...HEY
WILL YOU... STOP IT ALREADY?
CONNING MOM...INTO GIVING YOU MONEY.
...WHAT DO YOU WANT...?
DIDN'T YOU SAY
YOU WON'T COME BACK ANYMORE?

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
YEAH.
IT IS SHAME-FUL...
.....
HA HA...
SEEING MY BROTHER LIKE THAT
...IT'S JUST PATHETIC...
AH...
HAA.....

IMPOS-
SIBLE
I MUST BE DREAM-ING...
A PERSON LIKE ME,
IS LIKE AN INSECT IN KOUKI'S EYES
BUMP
--OUCH...
WAS I STILL HOPING I'D BE WELCOMED?
ANIKI...
ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?
THUD
FLOMP
YEAH
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

COMPARED TO ME
THIS IS BETTER OFF...

UKEETS
KACHAK...
...HE'S HOME...

SAGA-RA--SAN..
SAGARA-SA..
SAGA-RA--SAN.
CAGIN
.....
...N...
WHAT "I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW", "MAKE YOUR FAVORITE FOOD"
THE MINUTE I LEAVE... THIS HAPPENS.

AOI?
ARE YOU BACK?
close...

Sigh...
SO HUNGRY
GROWL
I CAN'T. I ONLY GOT 80 YEN LEFT
ANIKI, BUY ME CANDY!
THEN BEAR WITH IT.
YOU ALREADY USED UP ALL YOUR ALLOWANCE ON GAMES?
EH?

GEEZ... THIS IS THE LAST TIME, OK?
HERE.
YEY!
Sigh
THANKS, ANIKI!
THE ONLY THINGS I COULD RE-MEMBER ARE FROM THOSE TIMES
I'M REALLY PRETTY USELESS...

GOOD EVENING
...EH?
NODS
OH...
...GOOD EVEN-ING...

THUD
Sigh
...

SAGARA-SAN...
CHAPTER 2 END
To be continued...

よろこびは腕の中3rd

CHIRP
CHIRP
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

FINALLY...
SLIDE...
SURPRISE
--WOAH

KACHIK
KACHIK
KACHIK
...
UHH.
G'MO-
MORNING...

CHIRP
CHIRP
AH, GOOD MORNING.
CHIRP
GOOD MORNING.

CHIRP
CHIRP

...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STAYED OUT HERE ALL NIGHT...
YOU
REALLY HAVE NO-WHERE ELSE TO GO, HUH?

GET UP.
LET'S GO INSIDE.
AOI?
HEY.
PULLS AWAY

...STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD.
THIS IS EMBARASSING. COME ON, LET'S GO INSIDE.
SHOVE
IF IT'S SO EMBAR-ASSING, THEN JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

WHY DON'T YOU KEEP ON PRETENDING AND LET ME BE?
YOU KNOW I WAS HERE, BUT YOU DIDN'T SO MUCH AS SAY A WORD.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING!
GRAB
THAT'S ENOUGH COME HOME WITH ME-

...
PULL!
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
LET GO!
HEY!

...WHAT THE HELL.
IT'S ONLY AT THIS TIME
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'D FICK A WOMAN OVER ME.

HE'S ALWAYS ACTING LIKE MY GUARDIAN
--ALTHOUGH WE AGREED NOT TO MEDDLE IN EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS,
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SLEEPING WITH ME.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING YESTERDAY? WHERE WERE YOU?
YOU LEFT THE HOUSE WITHOUT YOUR PHONE.
I TOLD YOU I'D CALL YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU PHONE WITH YOU
WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, CAUSING OTHERS TROUBLE, I'LL HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING.
YOU DO KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

THANKS TO THAT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BRINGING A WOMAN HOME, RIGHT?
SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO LECTURE ME.
...WHAT?
WASN'T IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR YOU THAT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO CONTACT ME?
ISN'T THAT THE WHOLE POINT OF HAVING A PHONE?
I'M FREE TO INVITE ANYONE TO MY HOUSE.
THIS IS MY HOUSE.
...EVEN IF THAT WERE SO, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO ACCUSE ME OF ANYTHING.

(KEAK...
...AOI?
I'M LEAVING.
...AH...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
...IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
I SAID I'M LEAVING.

HOW CAN I LET YOU GO OUT LIKE THAT?
AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO ANYWAY.
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...!
ENOUGH ...
ENOUGH ALREADY.
REALLY... PLEASE.
LEAVE ME ALONE!

YOU'RE LECTURE'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH.
THIS THING WITH KOUKI IS MAKING ME IRRITATED ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANNA DIE!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T SAY IT
I ALREADY KNOW HOW USELESS I AM...
...KOUKI.
IS THAT TRUE?
ALSO...
I KNOW IT.
I KNOW THAT KID

KOUKI, HE...
MUST BE THINKING
.....
THAT IT'S BETTER
NOT TO HAVE A BROTHER LIKE ME AT ALL...

YOU THINK I'M NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, DON'T YOU?
YOU TOO. YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
..Uh
Uh
Uh
..IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS A CHARITY WORK...
Uh
Uh

THEN WHY?
DID MY MOTHER PAY YOU?
IF I REALLY THOUGH YOU WERE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, I WOULD HAVE KICKED YOU OUT A LONG TIME AGO.
DO YOU THINK KYOKA-SAN
CONSIDERS YOU WORTH THE MONEY SHE WOULD PAY FOR ..?

...I SEE.
MONEY ...
... WORTH ...?
NOT JUST MY BROTHER, EVEN FOR MY MOTHER, I'M JUST A NOBODY.
WHAT'S MORE...
IT'S NOT ME ..
BUT YOU. YOU, WHO'S NOT EVEN RELATED TO ME AT ALL, WHO KNOWS ALL THIS! HOW CAN I CALM DOWN?

TO TREAT A LOWLIFE LIKE ME...!
GRIP...
THIS SHOULD BE THE WAY
SO JUST LET ME DIS-APPEAR.
AOI!
CALM DOWN!
JUST HOW MANY YEARS
DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN BEARING THESE TROU-BLES OF YOURS?

...SO
...
THAT'S
...
I DIDN'T TAKE ANY SORT OF PAYMENT.
...IS IT FOR MY BODY?
...JUST HOW MUCH CONFIDENCE DO YOU HAVE IN YOURSELF?
AH, GEEZ. YOU...

ANYWAY, IT'S ALL LIES...
WHAT IS?
YOU'RE LYING...
THAT YOU, ABOUT ME, YOU...
I
ABOUT YOU...?

SAGARA-SAN...

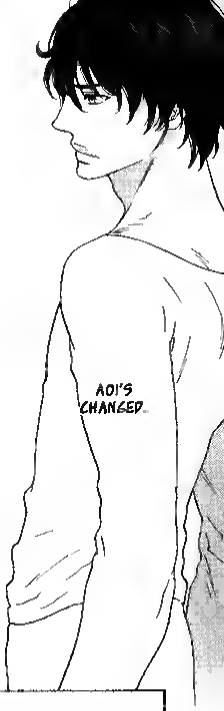
...ALL YOU TALK ABOUT IS YOUR BROTHER THIS AND YOUR BROTHER THAT BUT
Ah
I UNKNOWINGLY, CAME TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT YOU...
Aah
Uh.
Aah..
13 YEARS OF AFFECTION-
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL HAVE TO RETURN THEM ALL TO ME...

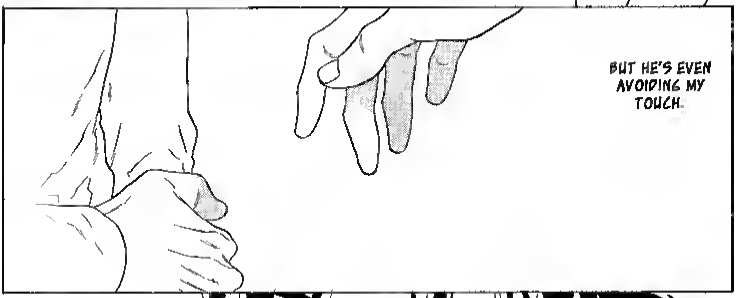
よろこびは腕の中4th

--SAN.
SAGARA-SAN.
SAGARA-SAN.
AREN'T YOU GETTING UP YET?
IT'S ALREADY PAST NOON.
... WHAT TIME?
ONE O'CLOCK.
Haa...
SHIT- I OVERSLEPT...

HOW UNUSUAL.
THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TROUBLE LATELY.
CREAK
IDIOT.
NOT YOU. I WAS REFERRING TO WORK.
PAT
FLINCH
...I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT THAT.
MOVES AWAY
.....

AND IN KISSING
NOT ONLY WHEN WE'RE HAVIN' SEX


AOI'S CHANGED.


BUT HE'S EVEN AVOIDING MY TOUCH.

LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON...

HUGS TIGHT...
IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOME-THING MISSING.
AOI.
...HM.
HEY!
WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?
GRIT...

WHAT A STRANGE KID.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS.
--ACTUALLY MAKES ME HAPPY
THIS INNOCENT REACTION OF HIS
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE BEING ALL THOUGHTFUL TODAY.
ENOUGH. JUST GO ALREADY.
ALRIGHT.

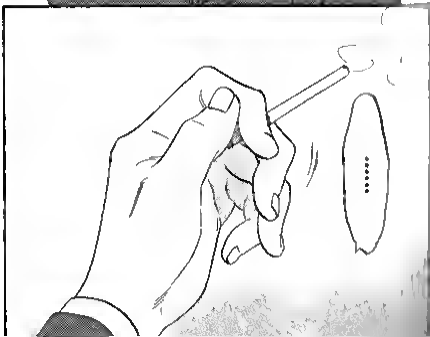
GOOD MORNING, BOSS.
MORN-ING.
THANKS
THANKS FOR THE DRINK.
I'M GOING NOW.
YOU LOOK TIRED BUT SOMEHOW YOU SEEM PRETTY EN-ERGETIC TOO...
REALLY ?
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
.....
MY FIRST LOVE CAME TRUE.

AND WE JUST HAD OUR THIRTEENTH YEAR.
YOU SHOULD CONGRATULATE ME
FORTY-ONE BY NOW,
...RIGHT?
BOSS,
YOU SHOULD BE...
WELL, CONGRATULATIONS
THANK YOU.
...BUT HOW DO I SAY THIS?
HEARING YOU SAY THAT, SOMEHOW, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND.
...ME?
YES, THERE'S JUST THIS FEELING
BOSS, YOU SEEM DIFFERENT LATELY.

BRING HER AROUND HERE SOMETIME.
I HOPE SHE'S NOT UNDERAGED.
...I HAVE NO PLANS OF BECOMING A CRIMINAL
WHAT A PAIN.

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SHOWING ON MY FACE.
AOI COULDN'T HAVE NOTICED, COULD HE?

I'M HOME.


.....

I HAVE... SOMETHING I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
YES?
...SAGARA-SAN.
WHAT?
.....
BECAUSE,
YOU'VE BEEN CELEBRATING SINCE THAT TIME I SPENT THE NIGHT OUT IN THE BICYCLE PARKING LOT.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT.
CELEBRATING... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M GOING TO BED.
I
WON'T CHANGE MY MIND JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SAID.

OPENS
HEY.
...AOI.
WHAT THE HELL WAS HE TALKING ABOUT...?
...WHAT ...?
Sits
I KNOW YOU'RE STILL AWAKE.
...WHAT DID YOU MEAN JUST NOW?

EVEN CHILDREN WOULD DO BETTER AT HAVING A CONVERSATION.
WHAT ARE WE DOING...?
BE IT THIS KID
OR ME, WE'RE THE SAME.
SURPRISE
...YOU KNOW,
CREAK
WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS ALREADY. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO LATE TO FOR THIS KIND OF SHYNESS?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP IT UP ANYWAY.
...RIGHT?
DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO DO THINGS YOU'RE NOT USED TO.

...ISN'T IT ALL YOUR FAULT?
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO SPECIALLY MENTION THESE KINDS OF THINGS.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME "DON'T DO IT".
IT'S NOT AS IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR ME...
Tousle
...GOT IT.
I KNOW WE HAVE A RULE NOT TO ASK ABOUT EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS.
I'M JUST CONCERNED ABOUT YOU. I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERFERE.

I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
PULLS UP
...ALTHOUGH I TOLD HIM TO GIVE BACK THIRTEEN YEARS OF AFFECTION,
(REAK
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO TURN SO CUTE...

THEN, DID HE RECEIVE IT?
...NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
I'M GOING OVER THERE. KEEP ME POSTED.
KKHAK
YES. THINGS OVER THERE ARE DONE TOO.
YES... THURSDAY AFTERNOON.
AL-RIGHT.
...TALK TO YOU LATER.
YOU'RE HOME LATE.
I'VE ALREADY PREPARED OUR FOOD YOU KNOW.
...I DROPPED BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
IT'S NOT FOR FOOD. I JUST WENT TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE. WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT?
TOSS

...HE'S TOTALLY BACK TO HIS OLD SELF.
GOING TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE OTHER THAN FOR FOOD...
SWISH
NOTHING. JUST THAT IT'S UNUSUAL.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE A LITTLE BIT LONGER BUT...
--AH.
HELLO. THIS IS SAGARA
HOW ARE THINGS GOING? ...YES, THE ADVERTISEMENT...IS IT POSSIBLE?
AH, YES. IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP IF WE COULD GET IT WITHIN THE DAY...
RIGHT...
...OPENS
--OK. LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR NOW.

I UNDER-STAND. I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR CALL...
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
Beep
.....
I WANT TO WORK AT YOUR STORE.

HE DROPPED BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
...I WENT TO LOOK FOR WORK BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF JOB I WANT.
IF POSSIBLE... I DON'T WANT JUST A PART TIME JOB.
A JOB SEARCH MAGAZINE...?
WORK
.....

BUT
...YOUR DETERMINATION IS COMMENDABLE.
I WANT TO ASK HIM
YOU HAVE THE LOOKS FOR IT
BUT YOUR PERSONALITY ISN'T SUITED FOR DEALING WITH CLIENTS.
...THEN
SOMEWHERE NEAR HERE--
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR A JOB.
PUTS DOWN

I KNOW IT'S BAD TO KEEP ON RELYING ON YOU...
BUT I DEFINITELY WON'T GIVE YOU ANY PROBLEMS.
EVEN IF IT'S NOT DEALING WITH CLIENTS, LIKE LOGISTICS OR WHAT
YOU SHOULD HAVE THAT KIND OF WORK, RIGHT...!
I'LL THINK IT OVER.
MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO HAVE YOU SOMEWHERE I COULD WATCH OVER YOU.
...RATHER THAN GOING ELSEWHERE TOT WORK

WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING... JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.
--IN THE END
I REALLY AM WEAK...
Hehe
YOU SPEAK TO YOURSELF RATHER LOUDLY.
.....
...IS THERE A VACANCY IN THE KITCHEN?
YOU MEAN CHEFS?
DISH-WASHING, MENIALS CHORES, THAT KIND OF STUFF.
I WOULD BE HAPPY IF WE COULD ADD MORE STAFF
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A LONG-TERM EMPLOYEE.

LONG TERM, HUH...
IF IT WERE THE AOI BEFORE NOW, THAT MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFICULT.
AND
HAD IT BEEN THE ME BEFORE NOW, I WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY NOT AGREED.
HAD IT BEEN THE ME WHO ONLY WANTS TO LOCK AWAY AOI.
--AOI.
WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS THREE TIMES A WEEK.
STARTING SEVEN PM UNTIL CLOSING TIME. WASHING DISHES AND THROWING OUT THE TRASH AND STUFF.
--HOW'S THAT?
--I'LL DO IT!
HOWEVER,

YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE THIS THING YOU HAVE WITH KOUKI FIRST.
IT'S UNACCEPTABLE HAVING MY LOVER EMROILED IN A MESS WITH ANOTHER MAN.
..SO HOW ABOUT IT?

...I UNDERSTAND.
I PROMISE.

よろこびは腕の中５th

I'VE NEVER TAKEN MYSELF SERIOUSLY.
MY BELIEFS, MY ACTIONS, NOT EVEN MY LIFE.
WHAT MORE
BEING OF USE TO OTHERS?
THE WAY THAT I AM NOW

THE only THING I can DO...

STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP

...YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER HAS WORK TONIGHT.
I KNOW.
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR KOUKI. I CAME HERE TO TALK TO YOU.

ME..?
I WON'T COME BACK AGAIN.
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL COME HERE.

...WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
IT WILL BE BETTER TO TELL HIM IN PERSON.
..BE-CAUSE I
.....
CANNOT MEET HIM. NOT YET..
BUT JUST SO THAT YOU CAN STOP WORRYING, I'M TELLING THIS TO YOU.
WHY CAN'T YOU MEET HIM?
.....
IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT

UNTIL I BECOME A DECENT PERSON
HAVING A NORMAL LIFE LIKE OTHERS DO.
TO HIM, I'M JUST HIS BROTHER IN NAME SO IT'S BETTER FOR THE BOTH OF US NOT TO MEET.
I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE ALREADY BUT I NEVER CARRIED IT THROUGH.
TODAY, I WILL END IT ALL.

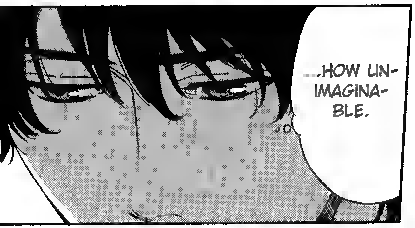
HN...
.....
.....
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL ACCEPT IT.
OR MAYBE, NOT SAYING ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER BUT
I WANTED TO TELL HIM I'M SORRY...
AH
YOU SAID BEFORE
THAT ACTUALLY, I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE HIM AT ALL RIGHT?

...YES.
THAT IF I REALLY LIKE HIM, I SHOULD SPARE A THOUGHT FOR HIM.
SO I THOUGHT ABOUT IT... THROUGH MY OWN WAYS.

I WANT HIM TO FIRST UNDER-STAND....
MY PERSONAL CIRCUM-STANCES.
.....
...I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO RELAY MY MES-SAGE
JUST THAT
WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY...
I THINK I GET
...AH
Crunch

...ABOUT LAST TIME,
I'M SORRY.

AFTER SETTING THOSE CONDITIONS,


...HOW UN-
IMAGINA-
BLE.

IN THE PAST, THOSE KIND OF THOUGHTS WERE ENOUGH TO CAUSE ME TO PANIC.
BUT NOW, I ACTUALLY THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER OFF THAT WAY.

MAYBE
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE KOUKI AGAIN...

TO FULFILL MY PART OF THE DEAL,
IS THIS ENOUGH
SAGARA-SAN..?

-- YOU'RE HOME LATE.
STEP
STEP
STEP
I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED.
...HOW DID IT GO?
Creak
...WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.

KOUKI'S LOVER ..?
NOT KOUKI HIMSELF?
...I WENT TO MEET KOUKI'S LOVER.
...I CANNOT MEET
KOUKI
YET...

I WASN'T PLANNING TO SEE KOUKI RIGHT FROM THE START.
CAN'T DO IT...
I
-- SAGARA-SAN
WHY?
.....
BUT I PROMISED YOU ANYWAY.
.. SORRY .

SEEING HIS LOOK OF DISGUST.
I'D GO FIND HIM ANYWAY.
JUST LIKE BEFORE...A LOT OF TIMES I'VE THOUGHT OF NOT SEEING HIM BUT
I STILL WANT TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE...
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, I STILL WANT TO WORK AT YOUR PLACE...
I CAN'T HELP IT.
AFTER SEEING HIM, IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT THAT WAY.

...SO, WHAT DID YOU TELL
KOUKI'S LOVER?
I WON'T VISIT KOUKI'S PLACE ANYMORE
THAT
UNTIL MY LIFE'S ON TRACK.
...THEN I WOULD APOLOGIZE...

DOES THAT
COUNT AS SETTLING THINGS
WITH KOUKI...?

YOU DID VERY WELL.

AH...
.....!
GRAB...
PULLS CLOSE

ALTHOUGH IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE KOUKI AGAIN,
YOU'VE DEFINITELY TAKEN A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
DON'T WORRY ANYMORE
... SAGARA-SAN.

I WANT TO KISS YOU...
.....
IF YOU WANT IT THEN COME AND GET IT.
..YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO IT.

END

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UNDERSTOOD I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU
HIGHIK
SAGARA-SAN
THE MANUFACTURER? WE CAN START NEXT MONTH, RIGHT?
...OK I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN TONIGHT.

カランコエ

WELL, THIS IS UNUSUAL.
IS SCHOOL OVER?
IS IT ALRIGHT IF YOU LOOK AFTER ME FOR A BIT...?
--THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL WITH YOUR BROTHER?

EARLY IN THE EVENING, BEFORE I LEFT FOR WORK,
...ALRIGHT.
GOOD MORNING.
MY EMPLOYER'S ELDEST SON TURNED UP AND SAID THAT...
IF YOUR MOTHER SAYS IT'S OKAY WITH HER.
OWNER, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ABOUT AO!...
HM...
I THINK HE INSISTED ON GOING TO YOUR PLACE.

I'M SORRY. I KNOW THIS IS A TOUGH TIME FOR YOU.
COULD YOU LOOK AFTER HIM FOR A BIT?
SURE, I DON'T MIND.
IF HE'S BEING A BOTHER THEN JUST CHASE HIM OUT OF THERE.
...I WONDER IF HE'D LISTEN TO ME?
HE'LL LISTEN. AS LONG AS IT'S SAGARA-KUN WHO SAYS SO
.....
--HUH? WERE YOU WAITING UP FOR ME?

HN ..
KYOKA-SAN SAID IT'S OKAY.
.....
SHE PROBABLY THINKING, "GOOD RIDDANCE".
OH, MAN...
GO TO SLEEP.
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S FALLEN FOR HIS BROTHER.
LIVING UNDER ONE ROOF WITH SOMEONE YOU CAN NEVER HAVE
IT MUST BE UNBEARABLE
P1
P1

.....
I'M NOT SURE IF I'D BE ABLE TO WAKE YOU UP IN THE MORNING.
I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY ANY-THING EITHER.
WELL
...AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK
THE REASON WHY I LEFT?
..IT'S FINE.
THEN, GO TO SLEEP.
Click

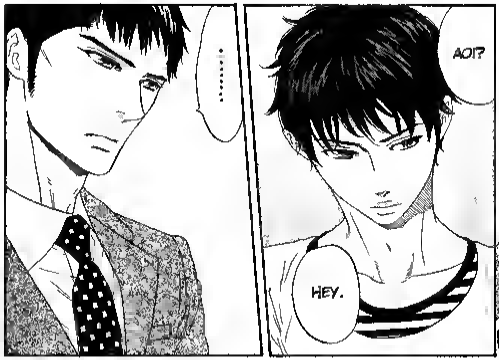
CLENCH
.....
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU
IF YOU WANNA SAY IT THEN SAY IT.
...SAGARA-SAN
I CAN'T LIVE IN... THE SAME HOUSE AS KOUKI ANY-MORE...
THEN, YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED

TAKING CARE OF ONE OTHER PERSON
ISN'T SUCH A BIG BURDEN.
--YOU SAID I COULD TAKE A LOOK TOMORROW, RIGHT?
...WHY DIDN'T YOU CONFIRM?
I GOT IT. ENOUGH. I'LL GO.
SHUU...

WEL-COME BACK.
YOU'RE PRETTY EARLY.
I GOT SLEEPY SO I CAME STRAIGHT HOME AFTER IT FINISHED.
TAK
TAK
PI
...YOU EVEN WORK AT HOME?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M PLAYING HOOKY OR ANYTHING...
...YOU
AREN'T HOME MOST OF THE TIME.
FOR WORK?
YEAH.
SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO OUT.
MAKE SURE YOU EAT PROPERLY.

AH...!
SHUTS
OH, GEEZ...
DON'T FORGET TO LOCK THE DOOR.
...IT'S BECAUSE OF WORK.
--YOU'RE STRIKING OUT ON YOUR OWN.
DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM KYOKA-SAN?
...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

WHAT? IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE UNSATISFIED WITH THEN SAY SO.
.....


.....
AOI?
HEY.

"WHY" ..?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN MY WORK, RIGHT?

—SORRY. I HAVEN'T GOT TIME I HAVE TO GO.

--I'M WORRIED ABOUT AOI.
IF HE WISHES IT, I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

MAYBE IT'S ALMOST THE RIGHT TIME...

IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT
I WANT TO USE THAT SET-UP TO KEEP HIM HERE BY MY SIDE
...IF HE SAYS HE WANTS TO GO HOME
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT HIS DECISION.

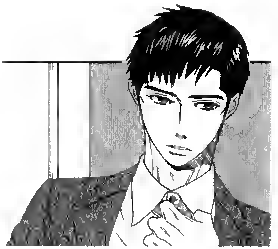
KACHAK
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE AOI CAME.
PI
PI
KUSHIE
I BETTER WAIT...

THAT WAS AN UNUSUALLY LONG BATH.
...YOU AREN'T SLEEPING YET?
HOLDS OUT
HERE.
I CAN AT LEAST DO THIS MUCH.
HA...?
.....

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO YOU.
...NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT!
YOU'RE STRIKING OUT ON YOUR OWN?
ISN'T /BECAUSE/ HE'S GROWN TO HATE ME BUT
HIS DISSATISFACTION ABOUT LIVING HERE,
IS THIS WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

...IT'S TOUGH GETTING READY, RIGHT?
IF IT'S SOMETHING I CAN DO, THEN I'LL HELP OUT.
...SO
BECAUSE HIS MOTHER GAVE HIM A WARNING?
WHAT SLOPPY IRONING...
...SO...
I STILL WANT TO STAY HERE.
NOT JUST UNTIL I'M ... SATIS-FIED ...

SO ASK OF ME ANYTHING YOU WANT
Y'KNOW, IT'S FINE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
.....
IT'S ENOUGH
ISN'T THAT WHAT IT MEANS TO "STAY UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED"?
WITH THIS, IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
AOI...
I'LL GRANT WHATEVER YOU WISH.
END



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Pleasure is in my arms
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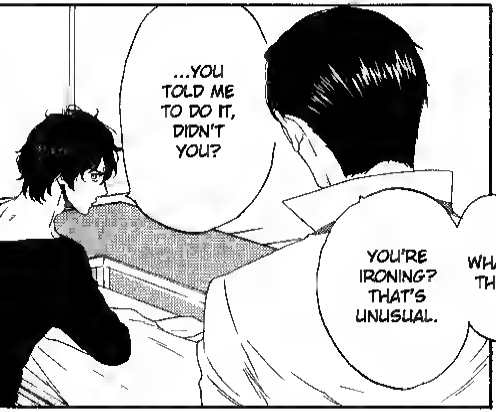
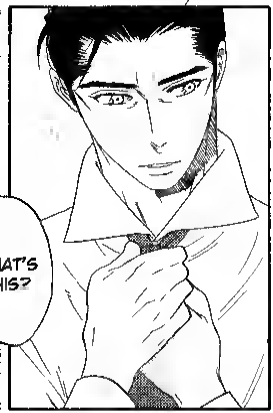
SHUUU...

この手の中に


...YOU TOLD ME TO DO IT, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'RE IRONING? THAT'S UNUSUAL.


WHAT'S THIS?

I MEANT YOU SHOULD SEND IT TO THE CLEANERS TO GET IRONED. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO IT BY HAND.
IT'S TROUBLESOME TO GO THERE FOR JUST ONE SHIRT.
THE CLEANERS IS PRETTY FAR.
THEY DO HAVE A PICK-UP SERVICE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO EARLIER
I DIDN'T MENTION IT?
YOU RE NO GOOD AT IRONING EVEN WAY BEFORE
SHUT UP.
OH WELL, WE CAN USE IT NEXT TIME.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT THEN DON'T WEAR IT..

CREAK

WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
CLICK
WAIT...!
HEY...
IT'S DANGER-OUS!

..YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK.
IS THAT ANY WAY FOR THE OWNER TO TALK?
IT'S NOT PROBLEM IF I'M LATE FOR JUST A BIT.
IT'S FINE.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE FINALLY BECOME LOVERS.

I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO.
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU...?
STAY HERE FOREVER.
AOI.
THE ONLY PLACE I CAN BE...
IS HERE
WITH YOU.
END